The Hate U Give Projects to Continue into 2021

Due to the twin pandemics of Covid-19 and systemic racism, we are extending Vermont Reads 2020: The Hate U Give until June 2021, the end of the academic year.

Angie Thomas’ bestselling YA novel about the Black Lives Matter movement is finding an even wider audience now than when it was first published in 2017. The powerful themes of The Hate U Give have been brought into sharper focus for millions of Americans by the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbury.

Our work with the book began with a powerful training on reading and racism led by Latinx scholar Dr. Laura Jiménez of Boston University in February. About 30 cultural leaders from around the state gathered in Montpelier to develop their facilitation skills to lead active community conversations about racism, bias, and equity through The Hate U Give. One participant noted, “I was forced to think and get uncomfortable in all the best ways. Dr. Jiménez was both empathetic and unswerving in her directness.”

A month after this training session, Covid-19 upended everything we had planned for 2020. The pandemic disrupted our ability to hold in-person Vermont Reads programs. For many months we could not ship books or offer programs in schools, churches, and community centers.

But this summer, several schools held socially distanced Humanities Camps based around Black Lives Matter and The Hate U Give. At the Maple Run School in St. Albans, camp director Tess Bradshaw told us, “This group of students is going to change the world for the better, and we are proud to have had the privilege of working with them.”

In early October, we teamed with the Vermont Library Association to host a Zoom conversation between Dr. Jiménez and the Vermont State Librarian, Jason Broughton. We’ve placed a video of their conversation on the Vermont Reads section of our website.

We encourage you to watch the video and then contact us about your Vermont Reads community project. We’ll work with you to provide expert facilitation so that your project can be a catalyst for action against systemic racism, even in the midst of the pandemic.

Watch Jason Broughton and Dr. Laura Jiménez in conversation on our website at vermonthumanities.org/vermont-reads.

Take Part in Vermont Reads 2020!
Join Vermonters statewide by reading and exploring The Hate U Give. With a brief application, schools, libraries, historical societies, service groups, businesses, churches, local governments, and others can partner in activities that promote literacy, encourage lifelong learning, and strengthen community.

We will offer training sessions and discussion leaders to help facilitate conversations about The Hate U Give. Visit vtreads.org for details.

APPLICATIONS: vtreads.org or call 802.262.1355.

Underwriter
Jan Biomstrann
Media Sponsor
VPR

With support from the Jack & Dorothy Byrne Foundation.

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act

VERMONT HUMANITIES and the VERMONT ARTS COUNCIL gave over $780,000 in Covid-19 Emergency Relief Grants to 123 cultural organizations, located in all 14 counties in Vermont

CARES Act Report to the Community

Funding for this program is provided primarily from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020.
To stretch available funds, grants were awarded in increments of $5000, $7500, and $10000 based on the organization’s budget size. We used an equity lens to ensure that those organizations that traditionally have higher barriers to resources were funded first. Well over half of the funding was distributed to the smallest and most at-risk cultural organizations, with annual budgets of less than $250,000.

While we appreciate this vital support through the CARES Act, the economic losses in the cultural sector are enormous. In the spring and summer months alone, Vermont cultural organizations sustained over $35 million in lost revenue. As winter returns to the United States and community spread of the virus continues, the sector continues to lose millions of dollars each month. We are grateful for the support of the Vermont legislature and the Scott administration, which allocated an additional $5 million in July in recognition of this ongoing crisis.

We urge you to contact your elected officials, thank them for what they have done already, and ask them to continue to advocate for the cultural sector, both in Vermont and across the nation. Our cultural organizations are essential for the vitality and recovery of our communities.

Sincerely,

Karen Mittelman
Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup
Vermont Arts Council
Vermont Humanities
## West Rutland Carving Studio and Sculpture Center

The Carving Studio and Sculpture Center inspires people to create three-dimensional art on the grounds of Vermont’s historic West Rutland marble quarries. A $7500 Emergency Relief Grant from the Vermont Arts Council helped staff learn new safety practices, adapt to remote working, and find new ways of communicating with constituents. “It was the encouragement we desperately needed to move forward,” said Executive Director Carol Driscoll.

### Organization Name
- 2Creative Community
- Art in the Neighborhood
- Burlington City Arts
- Carving Studio and Sculpture Center
- Center for Arts and Learning
- Champlain Philharmonic Orchestra
- Community of Sound
- Craftsbury Chamber Players
- Gallery at the WALT
- Inclusive Arts Vermont
- Lyric Theatre Company
- Lost Nation Theater
- Latchis Arts
- Inclusive Arts Vermont
- Lyric Theatre Company
- Main Street Arts
- Memphremagog Arts Collaborative
- Middlebury School of Music
- New England Youth Theatre
- New England Center for Circus Arts
- Northern Stage Company
- Off Center for the Dramatic Arts
- Opera Company of Middlebury
- Pentangle Arts
- Revelry Theater
- River Arts of Morrisville
- River Gallery School of Art
- SEABA Exhibitions
- Seven Stars Arts Center
- Shelburne Craft School
- Social Band
- Society of Vermont Artists
- Springfield Community Players
- Stone Valley Arts
- Stone Story Labs
- Studio Place Arts
- The Barn Opera House
- The Circus Barn
- The Mint (Rutland Makers)
- Theatre Adventure
- Vermont Crafts Council
- Vermont Performing Arts League
- Very Merry Theatre
- Vosek Studio
- Vermont School of Notary Public
- Vermont State Museum
- Viewpoint Arts
- Vermont Young Singers Chorale
- Vermont Youth Orchestra
- VT Arts 1st}

### Organization Name
- Alburgh Public Library
- Alice M. Ward Memorial Library
- Barre Historical Society
- Bennington Museum
- Billings Farm & Museum
- Body Memorial Free Library
- Blake Memorial Library Association
- Brandon Free Public Library
- Brattleboro Words Project
- Clemmons Farm
- Craftsbury Public Library
- Dairy Memorial Library
- Ethan Allen Homestead Museum
- Friends of the Fletcher Free Library
- Friends of the Jocelin Library
- Friends of the Morristown Free Library
- Friends of the Wardboro Library
- Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History
- Heritage Winoski Mill Museum
- Hildene, The Lincoln Family Home
- Jaffrey Public Library
- John McCullough Free Library
- Landlermy Arts & Historical Society
- Main Street Museum
- Merry Connections
- Middlebury Film Festival
- Middletown Springs Historical Society

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### Out in the Open

“We have seen a large increase in requests for support from our rural LGBTQ community members during the pandemic” said HB Lozito, Executive Director of Out in the Open. The organization, which aims to connect rural LGBTQ people, received a $5000 Emergency Relief Grant from Vermont Humanities. The funding helped Out in the Open keep staffing levels intact, launch a ‘zine exploring rural LGBTQ food traditions, and create seven Out in the Open Radio Hour episodes.
Humanities Grants

Old Stone House Museum

Cultural organizations like the Old Stone House Museum, which is operated by the Orleans County Historical Society, are especially important in rural areas like the Northeast Kingdom. The museum includes the collections of Alexander Twilight, a progressive educator who was the first person of African descent to receive a college degree in the United States when he graduated from Middlebury College in 1823. “We’d be losing a cornerstone if we had to permanently shut our doors because of Covid-19, a lack of funds, and a lack of tour revenue,” said Executive Director James Lockridge. To help serve the Burlington community of new Americans, DJ Jules Wetchi (pictured) broadcasts community health information in multiple languages from Big Heavy World’s radio station.

Dual Grants: Arts and Humanities

JAG Productions

JAG Productions in White River Junction presents classic and contemporary African-American theatre with a goal to challenge hierarchies of race, gender, class, and sexuality. A $7500 grant from the Vermont Arts Council and Vermont Humanities helped the organization chip away at debt and keep its staff during the pandemic. “Art is what brings us together,” said Producing Artist Director Jarvis Green. “It’s what connects us. It’s what keeps us in larger conversations. It’s how we see humanity reflected.”

Big Heavy World

A $5000 grant from Vermont Humanities and the Vermont Arts Council helped Big Heavy World respond to both the pandemic and to George Floyd’s murder and subsequent Black Lives Matter protests. “We perceive our role to be one of amplification,” said Executive Director James Lockridge. To help serve the Burlington community of new Americans, DJ Jules Wetchi (pictured) broadcasts community health information in multiple languages from Big Heavy World’s radio station.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brattleboro Museum And Art Center</td>
<td>Brattleboro</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
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<td>Bread and Puppet Theater</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vermont South Orchestra Association</td>
<td>Cal Chester</td>
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“Our cultural organizations are essential for the vitality and recovery of our communities.”

The Town Hall Theater in Middlebury used the $10,000 in CARES Act grants they received from Vermont Humanities and the Vermont Arts Council to support artists, pay staff wages, cover general operating costs, and host their first live, outdoor show since the theater closed temporarily due to the pandemic. The sold-out show by Bread & Puppet Theater was held behind Woodchuck Cider in September. Town Hall Theater later helped host other outdoor events, including the play “The Agitators” at the Clemmons Family Farm in Charlotte.